



Maternity and Infant Care Scheme

The Maternity and Infant Care Scheme provides an agreed programme of care to all expectant mothers who live in Ireland. The service is provided by a family doctor (GP) of your choice and a hospital obstetrician. You are entitled to this service even if you do not have a medical card.

The GP provides a 1st pregnancy/booking appointment and a further 5 examinations during your first pregnancy and 6 visits in subsequent pregnancies. These visits are alternated with visits to the maternity unit/hospital.

Usual Schedule of visits

< 12 weeks	First visit to GP
12-16 weeks	First Hospital visit
24 weeks	GP
28 weeks	GP (if 2 nd or subsequent pregnancy); Hospital (if 1 st pregnancy)
30 weeks	GP
32 weeks	Hospital
34 weeks	GP
36 weeks	Hospital
37 weeks	GP
38 weeks	Hospital
39 weeks	GP
40 weeks	Hospital

Care in respect of illnesses which are co-incidental with, but not related to your pregnancy does not form part of the Scheme. **The HSE Midlands has advised us they will not pay for any additional visits related to pregnancy except in the case of pregnancy diabetes or pregnancy related blood pressure problems (even if extra visits are advised by your obstetrician).**

Once your 6 or 7 free visits under the scheme are used up, normal consultation fees will apply if any additional check-ups are required.



Medical certificates for work/letters re: fitness to fly etc are not covered under the scheme and a fee will apply.

Under the scheme the GP will provide a check-up for both mother and baby at 6 weeks.

All children under 6 are now entitled to a GP visit card – as soon as you have a PPS number for your baby you need to apply on the HSE website for a GP visit card for the baby.

The public health nurse visits the mother and baby at home during the first six weeks.

Some other information:

- Booking bloods are done at the first hospital visit
- At your first hospital visit you will be given a card for recording details of your pregnancy and antenatal visits – please bring this card to all visits
- Please continue to take folic acid 400mcg per day until at least your first hospital visit
- Please bring a urine sample to all pregnancy visits – containers are available at reception.

Vaccines

- The HSE advises both flu vaccine and whooping cough (pertussis) vaccines for pregnant women
- The flu vaccine can be received at any stage of pregnancy. You should get it as early as possible in your pregnancy. The flu season usually occurs between September and April. If you are pregnant through two flu seasons, two vaccines, one in each season, may be necessary.
- The best time to get the whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine is between 16-36 weeks of your pregnancy. Giving the vaccine at this time will give your baby the best protection. The vaccine can be given after 36 weeks but it may be less effective.
- Although the HSE advises that these vaccines should be given, the cost is not covered under your antenatal care. For private patients, there will be a nurse visit fee for administration of the vaccine. For medical card patients, the flu vaccine is covered under the medical card scheme, but there is a nurse visit charge for the whooping cough vaccine.